

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037493

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 SSO-00 EB-07 /076 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-TWMSMITH:DFF

APPROVED BY AF-EWMULCAHY

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S/S- JLHOGANSON

AF/W-GADIES (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: CONVOCATION OF BENIN AMBASSADOR BOYA

REF: A) STATE 34136; B) STATE 34123

1. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR BOYA'S MEETING WITH THE DEPSEC DESCRIBED SEPTTEL. AF/W REVIEWED WITH HIM IN SOME DETAIL THE EVENTS THAT HAVE INDICATED A DETERIORATION IN US-BENIN RELATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS. WE PARTICULARLY CITED

ADJIBADE INTEMPERATE STATEMENTS DURING THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZATION OF TWO US FIRMS, THE NOTICE TO LEAVE THE CHANCERY COMPOUND WITHIN EIGHT MONTHS AND THE SERIES OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 037493

ACCUSATIONS AND APPARENTLY DELIBERATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT

HAVE MARKED THE RECENT HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE-DAM LOAN. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, WE GAVE BOYA A COPY OF AIDE-MEMOIRE (REF A) AND NOTED THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED ITS SUBSTANCE AT LENGTH TWO DAYS BEFORE (REF B). WE EXPLAINED THAT WE WISHED TO BE CERTAIN THAT BOYA UNDERSTOOD THE CONTEXT OF THE DEPSEC'S PROTEST AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FROM A US POINT OF VIEW IT COULD APPEAR THAT THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WAS THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF OVERT ACTS BY THE BENIN GOVERNMENT.

3. IT WAS APPARENT THAT BOYA UNDERSTOOD BOTH THE DEPSEC'S PROTEST AND ITS CONTEXT. IT WAS EQUALLY APPARENT THAT HE HAS HAD LITTLE IF ANY BRIEFING FROM HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT HIS COMMUNICATIONS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT ARE EXTREMELY POOR. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT, BUT THAT IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEKEND, AND THAT HE COULD NOT SEND A TELEGRAM UNTIL MONDAY FEB 16, ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT SUCCEED IN GETTING THROUGH TO SOMEONE BY TELEPHONE DURING THE WEEKEND. INGERSOLL

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